

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement in this application on March 16, 2000. The one month shortened statutory period for response to the Restriction Requirement is herein extended to expire on May 16, 2000, by payment of the requisite fee of \$110 for a one month Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a).

In the Restriction Requirement the Examiner divided the claims into three groups: Group I includes claims 1-9 which are drawn to a dialysis machine, classified in class 210, subclass 321.71; Group II includes claims 10-12 which are drawn to a connector with identifier, classified in class 439, subclass 955; and Group III includes claims 13-19 which are drawn to a method of detecting connection of a storage container, classified in class 210, subclass 739.

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In response to the Restriction Requirement, the Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, the invention of Group II, drawn to an apparatus and including claims 10 to 12, for further prosecution in this Application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement. According to the present invention, a connector with an identifier is provided to determine the type of connector. All the claims are thus directed to a single problem to be solved and have common limitations. A search and examination of the entire application can therefore be made without undue burden on the Examiner.

In particular, although classified in different subclasses, the claims in groups I and III are all in the same class. The searches performed for at least the claims in those groups would thus overlap.

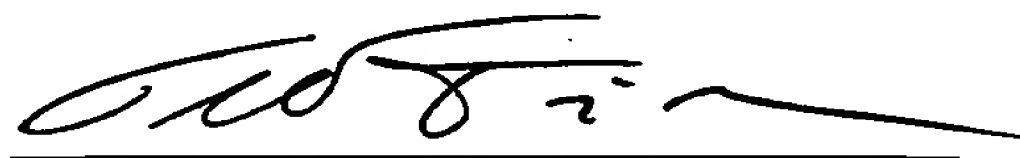
Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and all claims examined in this application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4296 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 16, 2000

By:



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